

# REPORT HIGHLIGHTS

## An Evaluation of Department of Health Grants Funded Through the Robert P. Casey Memorial Organ and Tissue Donation Awareness Trust Fund

Released: 2/24/2021

Act 2018-90 directs the LBFC to conduct a study and performance evaluation of expenditures that utilize grants from the Department of Health (DOH) relating to the Governor Robert P. Casey Memorial Organ and Tissue Donation Awareness Trust Fund and report our results to the Senate Health and Human Services Committee, House of Representatives Health Committee, and Judiciary Committee of both chambers. Our study primarily covered the period July 1, 2013, through June 30, 2018. Highlights of our report include the following:

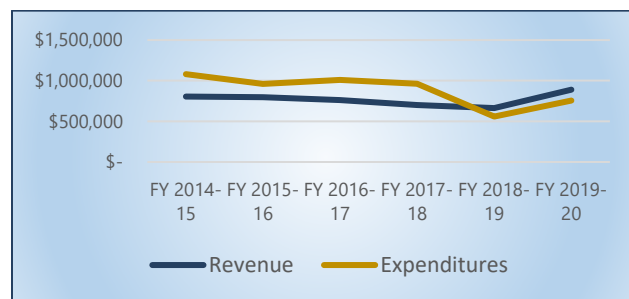
A JOINT COMMITTEE OF THE PENNSYLVANIA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

LEGISLATIVE BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

- ❖ **Statewide public awareness campaign efforts have continued to increase the number of organ donor designations in the Commonwealth.** The total number of designations has increased from 4.5 M in FY 2011-12 to 4.9 M in FY 2019-20.
- ❖ **The organ donation designation goal for the FYs 2012-15 grant agreement period was not reached.** Although the number of designations increased by 135,844, they fell 113,299 short of the goal of 249,143.
- ❖ **Of the 37 states that submitted their donor designation rates, 20 had a higher rate than Pennsylvania's 46 percent in 2012.** By 2019, Pennsylvania's donor designation rate had increased to 48 percent; however, among the 38 states that submitted data 27, had a higher designation rate. As of June 30, 2020, the Commonwealth's donor designation rate is 49.6 percent.
- ❖ **Overall, we found that DOH grantees and sub-grantees met the terms and conditions of their grant agreements; however, some agreement provisions were not met or DOH was not able to document the conditions in question were met. For example:**
  - As noted above, the goal for the total number of organ donation designations was not always met.
  - There was no documentation showing the ten counties with the lowest designations were targeted as required by the grant agreements.
  - There was no documentation showing partnerships occurred or the outcomes of the partnerships although meeting minutes and other documents showed discussion regarding workplace partnerships.
- ❖ **Pennsylvania's Organ Donation Advisory Committee (ODAC) engaged in a coordinated effort in the oversight of the Trust Fund's mission, along with the oversight of grantees and sub-grantees.** Based on our review of meeting minutes, it appears ODAC played an active role in the oversight of the Trust Fund. ODAC also included a variety of stakeholders participating in meetings and providing input into their decisions.
- ❖ **The fiscal condition of the Trust Fund is a concern.** The data show that revenues in constant dollars have remained relatively flat while expenditures have tended to

increase. Until FY 2019-20, revenues per capita had been decreasing, while expenditures per capita were maintained.

- ❖ **The Trust Fund was unable to accurately predict revenues in three of six fiscal years.** Revenue projections for FY 2014-15 and FY 2015-16 were overestimated by more than 10 percent. In FY 2019-20, the revenue projection was underestimated by more than 20 percent.
- ❖ **In the first four fiscal years of our review, expenditures exceeded revenues.** While the Trust Fund made appropriate adjustments in year five of our review, it appears the cuts to the outreach program resulted in a significant decline in the number of organ donor designations.



- ❖ **The Trust Fund relied on reserves to maintain spending levels in FYs 2014-15 through 2017-18.** The result is a significant depletion in cash reserves in the fund. However, the Trust Fund did receive an increase in the donation amount allowed at driver's license and registration renewals from \$1.00 to \$3.00. This should improve the financial condition of the fund.
- ❖ **Recommendation: DOH alter future grant agreements to better align with the Trust Fund's goals, needs, and resources.**

For a full copy of the report, email us at [lbfcinfo@palbfc.us](mailto:lbfcinfo@palbfc.us) or download a copy at <http://lbfc.legis.state.pa.us/>.